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PLANNING

community development

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news bulletin

No. 1

Montana Division of Planning
and Economic Development
Dept. of Intergovernmental Relations
(406) 449-2400

Yes, this is a new newsletter, initiated for the purpose of providing those interested in planning, land-use, community development, regional and state growth... the latest information of happenings here in Montana and nationally as they might affect us or you.

Current biggest concern and interest creator is the Legislature and actions they're taking that affect planning--

Subdivision regulations are pulling the greatest interest as senators waive clippings from foreign press advertising Montana land for sale...

State Planning drafted bill, SB208, as Montana Subdivision and Platting Act... passed Senate with amendments which might weaken the measure. House is now, as this goes to press, preparing for the hearing and debate stage. Bill follows in wake of division's publishing Model Subdivision Regulations (available free).

Environmental Quality Council also submitted a subdivision bill, HB341, which passed the House and is in hearing and debate stage at the Senate.

The two bills are similar yet differences are apparent. Press has called HB341 more limiting of local control with state assuming a larger role.

For those interested in providing input on these to their representatives and senators time is almost out.

other bills of interest...

HB58--Greenbelt Act provides retro tax bills for farm land when sold--was passed and sent to Senate taxation committee.

HB274-- amends housing authority law to eliminate referendum and place decision at level of city commission/council; bill held to '71 while similar senate measure died.

HB275-- requires county planning boards to include soil conservation district officials as members, was passed to senate where is now in local government committee.

HB342-- requires enforcement of zoning and sets penalties; was passed to senate. HB387-- Manufactured Building Act which would set rules and regulations for such buildings and components was deferred to '74.

HB422-- relates to jurisdiction of city-county planning boards outside of town and board membership, was passed to senate local government committee.

HB424-- expands planning board definition and sets mill levy; was passed to senate judiciary committee.

HB465-- health standards for subdivisions defined and expanded by this Health Dept. drafted bill, passed to senate local government committee.

HB556--Planned Community Development Act sets procedures for annexation, passed to the senate local government committee.



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Many bills affecting planning also were introduced in the senate...

SB154-- eliminates interim zoning provision, passed the senate and is in the House.

SB269-- requires master plans to include housing as an element, including which types best; passed to the House and if not signed into law yet, should be passed any day.

SB415--to require buyers via contract-for-deed to file within 60 days at county courthouse, but killed in committee.

Governor Judge's measure mentioned in State of the-State, and drafted by Planning Division, to control critical areas, introduced in senate as SB449--Montana Act for Areas of State and Regional Concern--would have Dept. Intergovernmental Relations (Planning Division) designate areas of state importance/concern; then require local governments to plan and enact land use regulations-- or state would step in. But SB449 held until '74.

On the national scene...Land Use Policy and Planning Assistance Act of last year has been re-introduced as S268. Reports from Washington indicate likely passage this session. Object is to push state land use planning programs.

Regarding subdivisions, final report of study by division in Bitterroot almost ready... key results show little surveying, platting and filing of subdivisions; most transactions are contract-for-deed which often are not filed...But Montanans appear to be the main buyers, 75%, and from the area.

Applications for HUD 701 planning assistance are in the process of being rated by Planning Division staff. Priority system places emphasis on programs proposing local staffs and multi-jurisdictional planning efforts.

Meetings are planned for all applicants in weeks ahead. Amount of assistance to go to local planning agencies will likely increase from \$201,000 to \$245,000.

18 Montana counties formed county planning boards since 1971 enabling legislation passed. Aid for others is available from County Commissioners or Planning Division.

PERSONS DESIRING TO RECEIVE THIS BULLETIN SHOULD CONTACT THE PLANNING DIVISION, also ANY PLANNING BOARD MEMBER CHANGES SHOULD BE SENT IN.

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